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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION ANALYSIS OF UNIFORM CRIME REPORT FOR 2008

Double-Digit Decreases in Murder and Motor Vehicle Theft; Reductions in Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Statewide

BALTIMORE, MD (July 29, 2009) – The Uniform Crime Report, issued by the Maryland State Police for January 2008 through December 2008, shows double digit decreases in murder (-11.0%) and motor vehicle theft (-10.8%), and reductions in rape (-4.4%), aggravated assault (-2.4%), and robbery (-0.4%) statewide for the year.

Violent crime in Maryland decreased two percent in 2008, when compared to 2007; and thirteen of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions reported reductions in violent crime. The report is based on crime statistics provided by police departments across Maryland and compiled according to standards established by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System.

"Maryland continued its crime fighting progress in 2008, building its successes of 2007," stated Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. "State and local collaboration and real time information sharing is reducing violent crime in our State. With the vision and leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown, and in partnership with the Maryland General Assembly and the new Administration in Washington, we stand to accomplish much more in 2009. This is an exciting time for law enforcement in Maryland."

During 2008, many jurisdictions achieved reductions in significant crime categories:

- Maryland's crime index totals show a dramatic 11% drop in murders statewide during 2008. That decrease was seen most dramatically in the 20 year low reached in Baltimore City (17% reduction from 2007) and the 6 year low in Prince George's County (13.5% reduction from 2007.)
- Baltimore County reports a 14% reduction in murders for 2008.
- Statewide, Maryland notes the lowest number of aggravated assaults (20,571) since 1988.
- Vehicle thefts are down significantly in four counties that have historically struggled with that crime. These reductions help the state show an overall 10.8% reduction in vehicle thefts during 2008 compared to 2007.

Prince Georges	-16.3%
Harford County	-13.7%
Baltimore County	-12.8%
Charles County	-11.6%

Thirteen of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions reported reductions in violent crime. The Uniform Crime Report defines violent crimes as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The following statistics are compared to reported data for 2007:

- Harford County experienced a significant 15.2% reduction in aggravated assaults. Aggravated assaults also declined in Baltimore County (11.4%) and Worcester County (18%).
- In Washington County, local law enforcement reported a 12.5% reduction in violent crime.
- In Worcester County, local law enforcement reported a 19.3% reduction in violent crime.
- In Somerset County, local law enforcement reported a 23% reduction in violent crime.

In order to accomplish this significant progress, the Maryland State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Juvenile Services, local law enforcement agencies, and state and local prosecutors have developed effective and efficient collaborations by engaging in consistent, seamless information sharing in order to reduce crime across the state.

- Numerous local law enforcement agencies effectively deployed resources in order to address trends, pursued technological advancements to increase efficiency and information sharing, and collaborated with State agencies and neighboring jurisdictions for enhanced crime fighting strategies.
- The Division of Parole and Probation redefined the most intensive level of supervision to successfully identify and supervise the most violent offenders in Maryland.
- Local Maryland police and sheriff departments benefit from intelligence based parole and probation partnerships by having Parole and Probation agents assigned to their watch centers and/or intelligence centers. All information known about suspects, victims and witnesses is shared in an effort to thoroughly investigate a case.
- The StateStat process has established benchmarks for state public safety agencies to ensure their reported contribution to reducing crime at the local level is measurable and is having an actual positive impact. DNA samples collected and analyzed, guns seized, and warrants served have all become part of StateStat's reported performance indicators.
- In 2008, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention assisted local law enforcement agencies by not only providing mapping services and various trainings (i.e., CompStat, legislative information sessions, DNA, etc.), but also through granting funding for technological advancements, overtime, and crime analysts. Law enforcement agencies across Maryland eagerly utilized such funds to promote valuable crime fighting strategies to reduce and prevent criminal activities in local communities and throughout the state.

Although Maryland accomplished significant strides in reducing criminal activity across the state, overall crime in Maryland increased 2.1 in 2008. Specifically, property crime increased by 2.8%, breaking and entering increased 4.7%, and larceny/theft increased 5.2%.

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